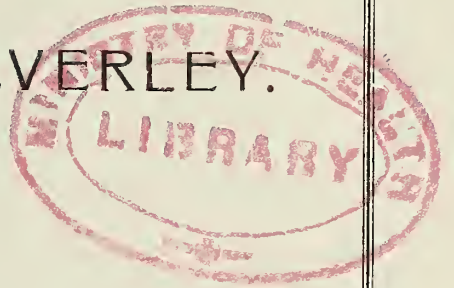




BOROUGH OF BEVERLEY.



REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(P. C. MCKINLAY. M.D.)

FOR THE YEAR 1943.

Beverley :

WRIGHT & HOGGARD, PRINTERS, MINSTER PRESS.

1944.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Beverley.*

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my fifth Report as Medical Officer of Health for the Borough.

It is a pleasure to record my appreciation of the faithful services of all members of the Staff of the Health Department and of other officials of the Corporation, and to acknowledge the interest and support of the members of the Council.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. C. McKINLAY, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1944.

Officers of the Public Health Department of the Council.

Mrs. M. Hill, S.R.N., was engaged as Part-time School Nurse in view of the increased work of the Department, and has helped to relieve the pressure on our Health Visitors.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

32 swabs of the nose and throat, 45 specimens of sputum, and 34 other specimens were sent to laboratories at Driffeld, Hull and London.

AMBULANCE.

The ambulance allotted to the Borough of Beverley by the Red Cross and St. John War Organisation was withdrawn for more urgent war service elsewhere, and the makeshift arrangements made in its place have further emphasised the valuable addition it had made to our Health Services, and it is hoped that strenuous efforts will be made as soon as possible to provide a more suitable replacement.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Child Welfare Centre is held every Wednesday afternoon, and 220 children attended for the first time,

and the total number attending was 395. Children under five are also seen when necessary at the school children's clinics for minor ailments on Tuesday and Friday mornings.

The Health Visitors paid 263 first visits, and a total of 1,994 visits to children up to the age of five. We have continued unceasingly our campaign to promote immunisation against Diphtheria, and a special week of intensive propaganda by the Press, the Cinemas, and through Schools, Churches and other organisations contributed to our total of 241 children under five years of age immunised against Diphtheria during the year. We recently began immunisation against Whooping Cough at the Child Welfare Centre, and the response has been very satisfactory. Although the evidence in favour of Whooping Cough immunisation is not as overwhelming as in the case of Diphtheria, there is good reason to believe that it lessens the severity of the disease when it does not prevent it entirely, and, bearing in mind the importance of Whooping Cough as a cause of death in infants, this new venture in Preventive Medicine deserves a thorough trial.

The amount of dried milk supplied at cost price to mothers attending the Centre was 2,448 lbs.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC

The Ante-Natal Clinic is held every Friday afternoon, and 86 new cases attended, the total attendances being 262.

The Dental Surgeon conducted seven sessions for 18 new cases and 9 old cases, but, despite this increase, it is still difficult to persuade the expectant mother of the necessity and safety of dental care both for her health and that of her baby.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases of Diphtheria were reduced from 8 in 1942 to 2 in 1943, one of which was a Service case. A total of 368 children between one and fifteen years of age were immunised during the year.

Scabies, which had been widespread in 1942, has been brought under control, thanks largely to the efforts of the Health Visitors and School Nurses in tracing cases, and to efficient treatment at the First Aid Post Cleansing Section.

Venereal Diseases constitute a widespread problem, aggravated by war conditions. Exact figures cannot be given, as cases are treated at Hull Corporation Clinic by arrangement with the East Riding County Council, but general practitioners testify to the increase of these diseases in our midst.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Total Deaths.
Pneumonia	38	24	11
Diphtheria	2	2	Nil
Cerebro-spinal			
Fever	3	3	Nil
Ophthalmia	3	1	Nil
Erysipelas	5	1	Nil
Pemphigus	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia .	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	19	14	Nil
Measles	298	2	Nil
Whooping Cough...	77	Nil	Nil
Dysentery	1	1	Nil
Para Typhoid	1	1	Nil
Malaria	2	2	Nil
Acute Poliomyelitis	3	2	Nil
Scabies	44	Nil	Nil
Encephalitis	1	1	Nil

Tuberculosis.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis. There were 6 male and 6 female new cases, as against 10 male and 13 female new cases in 1942. Three male and seven female cases died during the year. There were three male and two female non-pulmonary cases, with one male and no female deaths, during the same period. Though it is too early and Beverley is too small to draw very reliable conclusions, this substantial decrease in the number of new cases, which is contrary to expectations, confirms our belief that the general health of the Borough, of which the incidence of Tuberculosis is an index, is being maintained at a satisfactory level in the fifth year of war.

During the year, the new scheme of Tuberculosis Grants came into operation. This is, unfortunately, a utilitarian war-time measure, as the grants are only paid to early cases of Tuberculosis, with reasonable prospects of being made fit to return to work in the war effort, with a view to encouraging early treatment by alleviating economic hardship. Grants were made through the County Council Tuberculosis Scheme in five Beverley cases, two of which have since died, and none of the others are fit to return to work, so the objects of the scheme have not been achieved. It is recognised on all sides, and has been pressed on the Government by representatives of the medical profession and other interested bodies, that extension of the scope of the scheme is urgently needed. Tuberculosis, by reason of its chronicity, imposes a special financial strain on patients and dependants, and not infrequently it happens that the patient, too advanced to offer reasonable hope of fitness for work, refuses sanatorium treatment because of economic worry, and remains in the home environment, as a dangerous source of infection of the other, and especially the younger, members of the family and the community.

War-time Nursery.

The War-time Nursery goes from strength to strength, and is full to capacity, and a scheme for extension is under way. The improvement in health of many of the children has been most striking and is a justification of the principles of nutrition, hygiene, rest and recreation, which the Nursery seeks to teach to the children, the parents and the Probationer Nurses in training for the Nursery Nurses' Diploma. In some parts of the country, voices have been heard denouncing War-time Nurseries as centres of contagion, or productive of mal-adjustment of personality, but I can only report that we have been fortunate in avoiding serious epidemics, and that the happy faces of the children at play suggest that they are developing together a social sense which will make them well-balanced members of the community.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

During 1943, two important new duties were added to the Sanitary Inspector's Department.

The Minister of Agriculture introduced the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme, the primary objects

of which are to prevent, as far as possible, the serious loss of milk from souring which occurred during the first two years of the War, and to improve the keeping quality of the milk. On being requested, the Council consented to assist the Ministry of Agriculture by collecting at least two samples of milk per month from all producer-retailers in the Borough, such samples to be forwarded to the Department of Agriculture's Laboratory in Beverley. The scheme in Beverley started at the end of October, and 67 samples were collected to the end of the year.

During the year, the Council was asked by the East Riding County Council to accept delegation of the powers under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919. Upon the Council stating their willingness to accept such delegation, the powers under the Act were transferred in November. In addition, the Infestation Order, 1943, laid many duties upon the department. A survey was conducted to ascertain the position with regard to rat infestation within the Borough. No serious infestations were discovered during the year, although 69 inspections were made for the purpose. The scheme did not reach its maximum effort until 1944.

During the year under review, although more earnest endeavour than ever was made to maintain the large tonnage of salvage, several articles showed serious decreases—notably paper and rubber, although certain grades of ferrous scrap, glass and rags showed remarkable increases. In August, Beverley took part in the Yorkshire County Book Recovery and Salvage Drive, and emerged with glowing colours.

A number of Council houses were found to be infested with vermin during the year. This is perhaps due to war conditions, the inability to obtain the necessary labour and lack of time at the disposal of the Sanitary Inspectors to carry out disinfestation work on a large scale, and it would appear that a higher proportion of such houses are infested than was the case before the War.

1. WATER.

During the year, a serious shortage of water necessitated the cutting off of supplies during certain periods of the day and the Council seeking fresh supplies. On the 4th October a full supply of water from Hull was afforded.

Samples have been regularly taken from both the Beverley Waterworks and from the Hull supplies. 41 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst during this year. These samples showed the water supplied to the public to be satisfactory after filtration and chlorination.

2. SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The position with regard to Sanitary Accommodation in the town at the end of the year was:—

Type of Convenience.	Number.	Percentage.
Water Closets	3664	... 83·60
Privies	208	... 4·75
Pail Closets	511	... 11·65

3. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

During the year, 4,185 loads of refuse have been collected from private dwelling-houses and business premises in the town, corresponding to an estimated weight of 5,209 tons. The total cost of refuse collection and disposal, including salvage, was £2,657. All the refuse in the town, other than that salvaged, was disposed of by Controlled Tipping.

Paper, scrap metal, glass, bones, rubber, rags and waste food were collected as salvage during the year. To the year ending 31st March, 1944, 292 tons were salvaged and sold for £1,497.

4. INSPECTION OF THE AREA UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS.

79 visits and 137 re-visits have been made under the Housing Acts. 39 Informal Notices and 1 Formal Notice have been served and 32 houses made fit. 259 visits and 426 re-visits have been made under the Public Health Act. 73 Informal Notices have been served and 192 nuisances abated. It should be remembered that quite a number of repairs to houses are now carried out under the provisions of the Public Health Act.

The housing programme is still in abeyance, due to the War, no Demolition Orders, Clearance Orders or Closing Orders being made during the year. Houses which would otherwise have been demolished are now having to be maintained in a reasonable condition by having essential work carried out.

Cases of overcrowding during the year were visited by the Sanitary Inspectors, but on account of the housing shortage and the presence of evacuees in the town, overcrowding still exists.

5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

940 beasts, 465 calves, 9,774 sheep and 292 pigs were slaughtered at the Government slaughterhouse during the year. This has been visited daily by the Meat Inspectors for the purpose of meat inspection, 366 visits having been paid.

6. FACTORIES.

Inspections of factories were made during the year, and Certificates as to Means of Escape in Case of Fire under Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937, were granted.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Total. M. F.

Live Births:—

Legitimate ... 240 140 100

Illegitimate .. 18 9 9 Birth rate per 1,000
of the estimated
resident population 17·7

Still Births:—

Legitimate ... 4 2 2 Rate per 1,000 total

Illegitimate .. 1 - 1 (live and still)
births 19·0

Deaths 201 98 103 Death rate per 1,000
of the estimated
resident population 13·8

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births 58·1

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live
births 62·5

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live
births Nil

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 2

Death Rate, England and Wales 12·1

Birth Rate, England and Wales 16·5

Infantile Mortality, England and Wales 49·0